

System Configuration Team (SCT)

Conference Call Notes February 4, 2004

Greetings and Introductions.

The February 4 System Configuration Team conference call was convened to discuss the reduction in available FY'04 CRFM funding due to increased savings and slippage, and how best to respond to the strawman proposal presented by the Corps of Engineers at last Friday's SCT meeting. The call was chaired by Bill Hevlin of NMFS. The agenda and a list of attendees for the meeting are attached as Enclosures A and B. Hevlin led a round of introductions and a review of the agenda.

The following is a distillation (not a verbatim transcript) of items discussed at the meeting, together with actions taken on those items. Please note that some enclosures referenced may be too lengthy to routinely include with the meeting notes; copies of all enclosures referred to in the minutes are available upon request from Kathy Ceballos of NMFS at 503/230-5420.

1. Revisions to the FY'04 CRFM Program.

Gary Fredricks said the salmon managers had discussed the strawman and agreed with everything except the Corps' recommendation to defer line-items 53 (Lower Granite surface bypass BGS relocation and test) and 11 (Lower Monumental barge loading design improvements – dewaterer) – we would prefer that those two not be changed, Fredricks said; the total of those items is \$775,000. To pay for that, the salmon managers would prefer to reduce line 56 (John Day biological studies) – by \$800,000. There is also the \$80,000 in double counting for line-item 18.

Dana Knutsen said the Corps has some concern about the actual cost of line-item 53 – moving the BGS at Lower Granite in and out is expected add \$200,000 to the cost of the hydroacoustics study over the course of the season. There was also about \$110,000 in additional cost for Line-item 11, Knutsen said.

Hevlin said NOAA Fisheries may be willing to live without moving the Lower Granite BGS. After a few minutes of discussion, Fredricks observed that the group may need to go back

to the drawing board; with these changes to the costs in the spreadsheet, we're still \$205,000 short. Hevlin said that, after talking to Rebecca Kalamasz, the Lower Snake decision document (Line-item 24) may not need \$596,000 in funding. There was a meeting on that topic today, Knutsen said; I have not yet heard the outcome of that discussion. Perhaps we can take \$200,000 from that line-item to pay for these additional costs, Hevlin said. And again, we may be able to live without moving the BGS at Lower Granite, Hevlin said – the priority there, for us, is the monitoring, because it is critical to figuring out the proportion of the ruin passing through the spillway, and to adjusting the transportation program in response to the number of fish passing via the RSW. To us, that's the critical issue. The third thing is, we have two years of radio telemetry at that project; this year's work will augment that with hydroacoustics data, Hevlin said.

Anyway, that's our best advice, at this point, said Fredricks. Why don't we take a look at this, and see what we can do about the \$200,000 shortfall, said Kranda – it could be that we can find a little here and a little there, so that we can still move the BGS in and out. We can look at the decision analysis, said Knutsen; perhaps the re-scoping that may take place will free up some funds. I'll also discuss the need to move the BGS in and out with the project team, he said. There may be some funds available from summer marking, as well as the delayed mortality study, Knutsen added. At any rate, said Kranda, we'll plug Line-items 53 and 11 back in, and we'll crunch some numbers. He said he will report back to the SCT as soon as he has something to report.

With that, the conference call was adjourned. Meeting summary prepared by Jeff Kuechle.